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# HIS LAST SCOUT

A

MILITARY DRAMA

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*IN TWO ACTS*

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BY WILLIAM BOOTHMAN

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CHICAGO:

1887

Mr C. W. W. 389 Park Ave







# HIS LAST SCOUT

A

MILITARY DRAMA

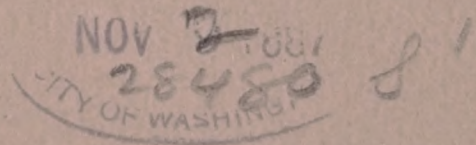
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HIS LAST SCOUT.

A Military Drama in Two Acts.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

UNION.

BILL STEVENS, A Scout.....  
JACK STEVENS, A Scout.....  
HARRY JONES, A Soldier.....  
CHARLIE BOND, A Soldier.....  
SAM, The Cook.....  
COL. LEGRAND.....  
CAPTAIN MILLER.....  
SERGEANT DEVOE.....  
CORPORAL DEWITT.....  
MRS. WARE.....  
MARY WARE.....

Soldiers, etc.

CONFEDERATE.

CAPTAIN QUANTRELL.....  
LIEUT. ARCH. CLEMENS.....  
JIM CLEMENS.....

Soldiers, etc.



## ACT FIRST.

SCENE 1.—(Union camp, showing tents, men lying about, reading, writing and playing cards. Jack Stevens reading on right of stage.)

HARRY JONES.—(Coming from back of stage.) “Come, Jack, give us a song to cheer us up to-night. We all seem to be very quiet.”

JACK STEVENS.—“No, no, not to-night, I don't feel like singing. Call on Bill, there. He seems to be in a lively mood. I feel as if something was going to happen. The thought of those loved ones at home comes to my mind with greater force than ever before.”

HARRY.—“Well, well, cheer up, Jack. Don't let these thoughts oppress your mind so much.” (To Bill, who is playing cards on the left:) “Come, Bill, sing us one of your comic songs to-night, to drive away this gloomy spell that seems to be gathering over us.”

BILL.—(Coming to front.) “Why, of course I'll sing or do anything to pass away the time and make the boys forget the toils of these long and weary marches.” (Sings. At the end of song a noise is heard as if some one was running.) “Ha, here comes old Sam, running as if the ‘Old Harry’ was after him. I'll bet there's something in the wind now, boys.” (Enter Sam with a sack on his back, filled with chickens, turnips and cabbage.) “Hello, Sam, what's up now? Is the Southern Confederacy after you?”

SAM.—“You'd better b'lieve, Massa Bill, dis yere ole coon's bin makin' tracks fur dis camp. Specks you'd dun de same if you dun seed dem gorrillas as dis coon seed.” (All laugh.)

BILL.—“Well, what have you seen, Sam? Tell us.”

SAM.—(Looking serious.) “I'se dun seed a *thousand* of dem gorrillas. As I'se a comin' ober de hill dar, and lookin' on de udder side, I saw *two* of dem sneaking in de hollah.”

BILL.—“Ha, ha! Sam, you just said there was a thousand, and now you come down to two. Don't you think, Sam, there was only one?”

SAM.—“No, Massa Bill, I dun seed two gorrillas, suah, and dar mout have bin a lot more.”



BILL.—“But what have you here, Sam?” (Opens sack.) “I see you have not forgotten to stick to this. So you have been foraging, eh?”

SAM.—“You bet dis ole coon’s not gwine to eat Massa Linkum’s truck when dar am good chickens an fodder in dese parts. But heah comes de Sahgeant, boys. I’s a-gwine.” (Exit on right, picking up the sack.)

SERGEANT.—(Entering on left.) “Boys, I have a detail here for four men, from Company F, to go out with a scouting party, who leave in an hour. They are going to hunt up that guerrilla, Quantrell, who is hiding somewhere in this locality. Who wants to go?”

BILL.—“I’ll go for one, Sergeant.”

JACK.—“Put me down for one.”

HARRY JONES.—“And I.”

CHARLIE BOND.—“And I.”

SERGEANT.—“All right, boys, I knew Company F would be ready when there was anything to do. Now get ready to report at headquarters in half an hour, and take three day’s rations with you.” (Exit Sergeant on left, soldiers retire on right and left. Detail remain to make preparations.)

SAM.—(Enters with package.) “Say, boys, don’t you want some of dese chickens to take with you on de scout? It am mighty good.” (Hands to Bill.)

BILL.—“Thank you, Sam. I expect it will go very good when we are on the road, if those *thousand* guerrillas don’t meet us and capture it.”

SAM.—“Nebber mind, Massa Bill, jes’ keep your eyes open. Dat Quantrell am mighty cunnin’.”

SCENE 2D.—(Street. Sam, coming from right, meets two soldiers from left, who stop him and make him sing “When This Cruel War is Over.” Soldiers with banjo and bones.)

SCENE 3D.—(Tent. Headquarters. Colonel LeGrand writing on box. Guard at entrance of tent. Scouting party waiting for orders. Captain Miller leaning on log on right.)

ORDERLY.—(From Headquarters, salutes.) “Captain Miller, Colonel LeGrand wishes to see you in his tent.” (Exit Captain and Orderly. Bill and Jack enter from left. Jack leans against a tree.



Enter Captain Miller with papers in hand, and calls the names; "Bill Stevens; Jack Stevens." They answer: "Here, Captain," and step up to him.)

CAPTAIN MILLER.—"By the order of Colonel LeGrand, both of you are hereby detailed as special scouts for the reason that you are much better acquainted with this part of Missouri than any one else. Here are your orders. Read them carefully and then destroy them. Sergeant, get your men in line and call the roll, for we must be moving." (Exit Bill and Jack.)

SERGEANT.—"Fall in, men. (Calls roll and marches scouts off on left.)

SCENE 4TH.—(Landscape. Enter scouting party. Men sit down as if weary. Captain sits on a log. Enter Bill and Jack.)

CAPTAIN MILLER.—"Well, boys, is there any news in regard to the guerrillas?"

BILL.—"Not yet, Captain. To find them is no easy task, I assure you."

CAPTAIN MILLER.—"It seems strange that we do not learn of their whereabouts or find any clue to them, when we know they are lurking about in this locality."

BILL.—"Well, you see, Captain, these rebel women are watching every movement we make, and keep Quantrell well posted. They come into camp to sell their truck, which is, in fact, simply to find out what is going on and then report to him. But there is one more place where they may be hidden. We are going there to-night."

JACK.—"Never fear, Captain. If Quantrell or any of his gang are about, we will find them, for we have an old score to settle."

CAPTAIN MILLER.—"All right boys. Get off as soon as you can, and we will camp here until you return. (Exit Bill and Jack.) Sergeant, post your guard, and let the men rest a few hours until the scouts return."

(Sergeant posts the guard and men prepare to lie down. Captain Miller reclines on a rock.)

CURTAIN.

SCENE 5TH.—(Wood. Jack sitting on a rock. Bill looking around to see that the coast is clear; goes up to Jack and slaps him on the shoulder.)



BILL.—“Come Jack, why are you so sad and silent to-night? I have not seen you in this mood before.”

JACK.—“I don't know why it's so, Bill, but somehow I cannot help it. I feel as if this was my last scout. (Rises and comes forward.) “Bill, if I should fall in this expedition, bear this package and message to Jennie. Tell her how I loved her, and that I died for our beloved country and that flag which waves over the land of the free.”

BILL.—“Cheer up, brother. All will yet be well when we have whipped these rebels back into the Union which they are trying to destroy. But come. Just across the creek is the place of Captain Ware, who is now with General Grant before Richmond. Let's go and see if his folks are all right.”

JACK.—“Ha, ha! Bill, I think that pretty Mary Ware has something to do with your wanting to go there. But lead on, Bill, I am always ready where duty calls.”

(*Tableau. End of Act 1.*)

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## ACT SECOND.

SCENE 1ST.—(Room in Ware's house. Mrs. and Mary Ware sit sewing and conversing about the war.)

MRS. WARE.—“I tell you, Mary, there is no telling when those hateful rebels may come and burn the house over our heads. How I do wish this war was over.”

MARY.—(Going to the door.) “Hark, I hear some one coming to the door! *May God protect us!*”

(Enter guerrilla with pistol and knife in scabbard.)

JIM CLEMENS.—“Ha, here you are my beauties. So you're all alone in this fine house of Captain Ware? And he is off to rob us of our niggers, is he? Bah! One Southerner is good for five Yanks.” (Starts to search house. Sees a ring on Mary's finger.) “Give me that ring. I know some one that it will just fit.” (Takes ring.) “Come, get us some grub. I'm almost starving.”

MARY.—“Never! I would rather die than get a meal for you or any of your gang!”



GUERRILLA.—(Partly draws knife.) “Keep a civil tongue or I’ll give you a taste of this !”

(Returns knife, and goes to desk to take out letters. Mary rushes up to him, snatches the letters and runs. Guerrilla draws knife and rushes after her, and is in the act of striking. Jack and Bill seen at the door; Jack with pistol drawn. Mary screams, Jack fires and guerrilla falls. Enter Jack and Bill, search rebel and find papers.

#### TABLEAU.

SCENE 2ND.—(Woods. Guerrillas camped about on stage. Enter Quantrell on left.)

QUANTRELL.—Well, boys, have those two men returned who went out to reconnoitre ?”

GUERRILLA.—“They have just come in, Captain. But here comes Lieutenant Clemens who can tell you all about it. (Enter Lieutenant.)

QUANTRELL.—“Well, Lieutenant, what news have you? Did our women get the information we wanted ?”

LIEUTENANT.—“They did, Captain. There is no doubt that they will keep us posted on all that is going on in the Union camp. A scouting party has started out to find us. I also hear that Bill and Jack Stevens are out with them—the two brothers who were with the scouting party who killed poor Walter Ford down in Saline County. I owe them one for that, and you bet I’ll pay them off.”

QUANTRELL.—“Ha, I see you have not forgotten your old friend Walter yet.”

LIEUTENANT.—“No, and I never will; but it’s strange, Captain, that brother Jim does not return. He went out last night on a little scout of his own. He said he was going to visit Captain Ware’s folks, the Yankee Captain, who is now before Richmond with the Union forces. I should like to have Jim with us when we have a brush with this Yankee scouting party.”

GUERRILLA.—(Enters and salutes Captain Quantrell.) “Captain, the Union scouts are marching within five miles of us, and are making towards the Rocky Pass, and they seem to be well posted as to our whereabouts.”

QUANTRELL.—“Lieutenant, get your men together and we will meet them near the Pass.”



LIEUTENANT.—“All right, Captain.” (Gets men in line and marches them off.)

SCENE 3D.—(Landscape same as Scene 4th, Act 1st. Union scouts lying around. Captain Miller sitting on a log on right. Sergeant and men eating from haversacks.)

CAPTAIN MILLER.—“Sergeant, I think it is about time our scouts were in.” (Bill and Jack enter from left.) “Ha, here they come.” (Bill and Jack come to the front.) “Well, what news?”

BILL.—“Well, Captain, we found them down there by the Tetsaw Plains, not far from the Rocky Pass. By the way, Captain, we had a little adventure last night. A few miles from here we were just going into Captain Ware's house when we heard a terrible scream. Jack was in front, looking through the partly open door. We saw one of Quantrell's guerrillas, with a knife drawn, in the act of striking Mary Ware. Crack went Jack's pistol and down went Mr. Reb. From papers found in his pockets we learned who he was and where his party were camping. It was Jim Clemens, a brother of Arch. Clemens, Quantrell's Lieutenant.

CAPTAIN MILLER.—“All right, boys, fall in; we must be moving. Let every man keep a good lookout.” (To Bill and Jack:) “Lead on.” (Scouts march off.)

SCENE 4TH.—(Rocky Pass. Enter guerrillas from right, who halt in center of stage.)

QUANTRELL.—“Now, boys, get behind anything you can find and keep low. Lieutenant Clemens and I will stay here.” (Pointing to rocks on stage.)

LIEUTENANT CLEMENS.—“Here they come, Captain. Look out!”

(Quantrell and Clemens get behind rocks. Other guerrillas retire on left of upper entrance. Quantrell and Clemens commence firing, which is returned from right by Union scouts, after which Bill and Jack make a dash for them.)

BILL.—“Here they are, Jack!”

(Quantrell and Clemens rise from behind rock and fire. Jack falls. Quantrell rushes off stage. Clemens and Jack meet and draw knives. Knife combat. Clemens falls. Union scouts cheer. Guerrillas driven in from left to center of stage. Union scouts at charge.

TABLEAU.







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